

FIG. A

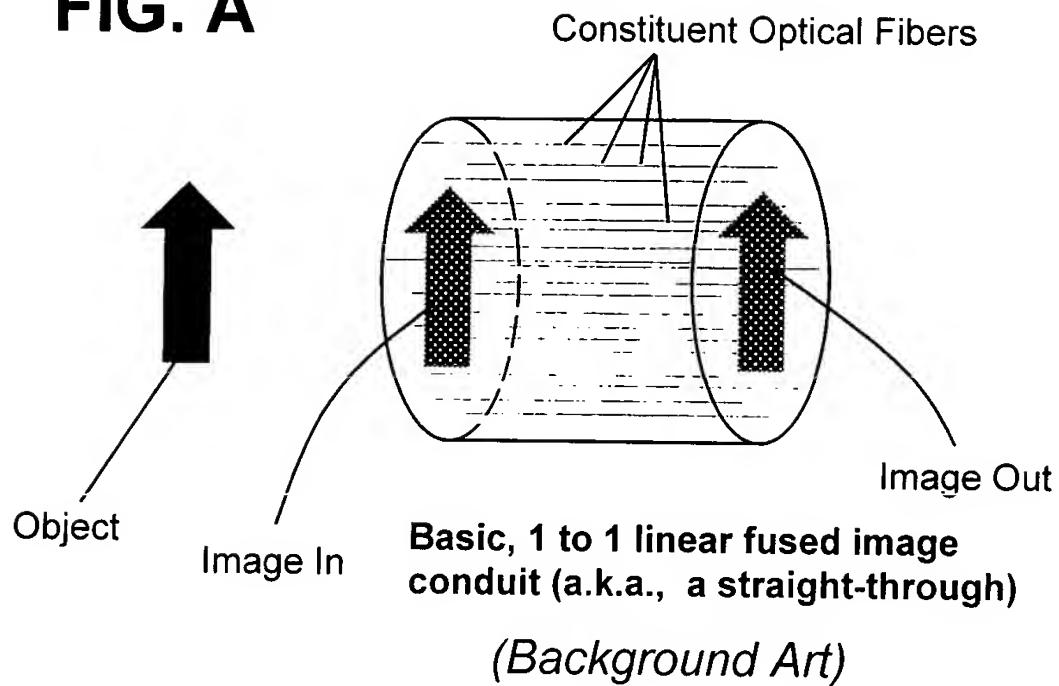
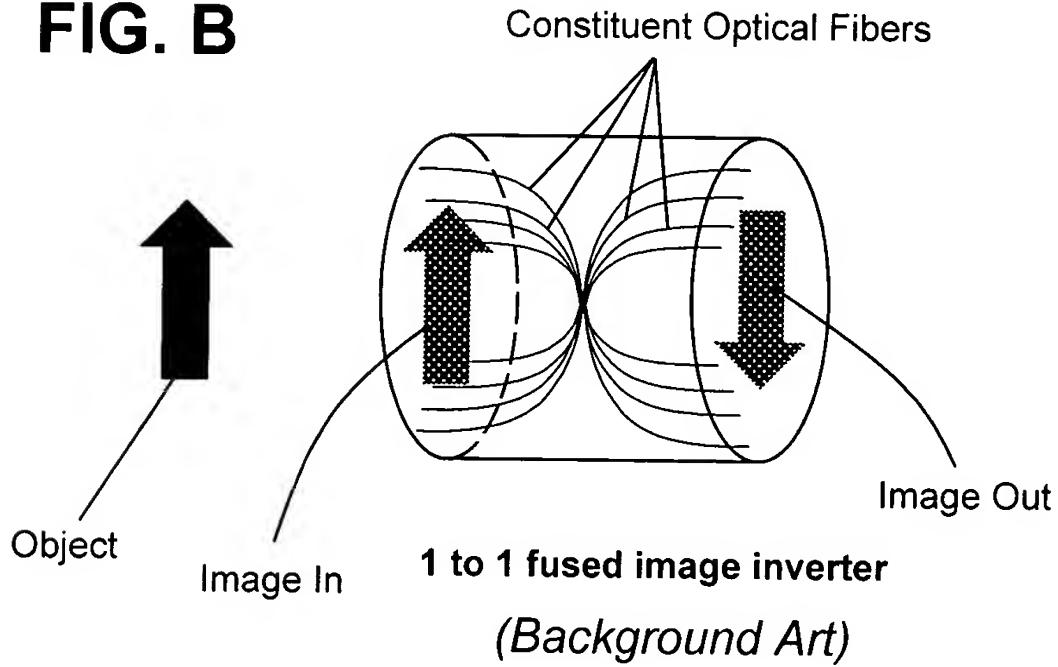
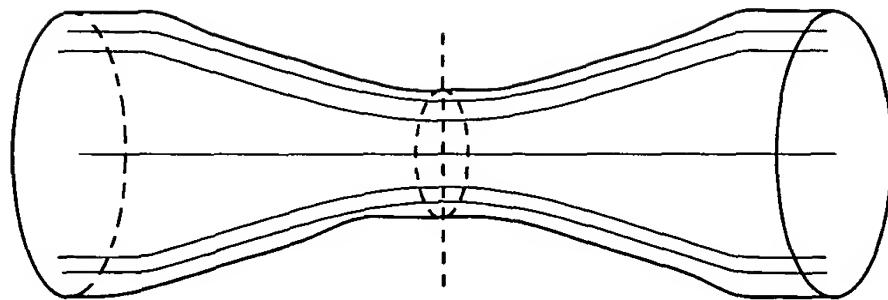


FIG. B

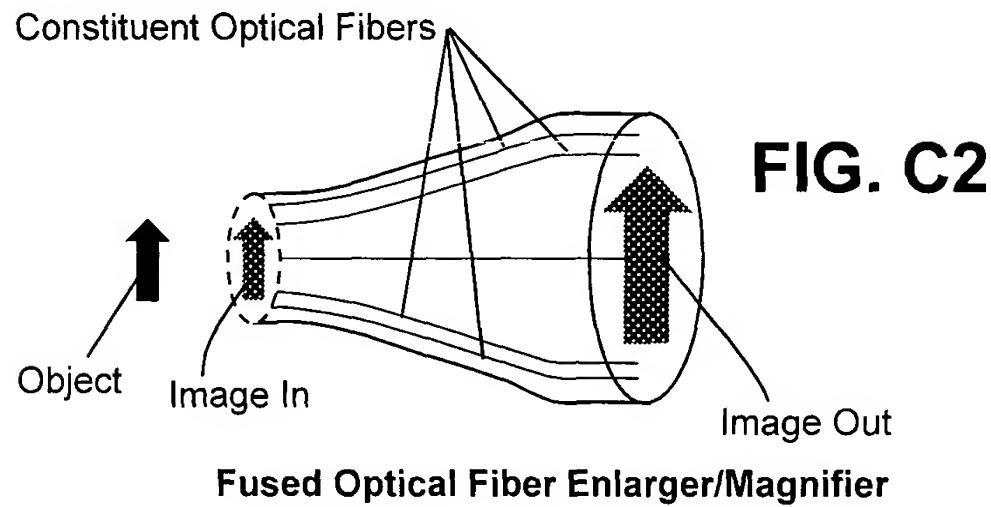


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Fused Bundle is heated and Stretched to Produce Reducer and/or Magnifier

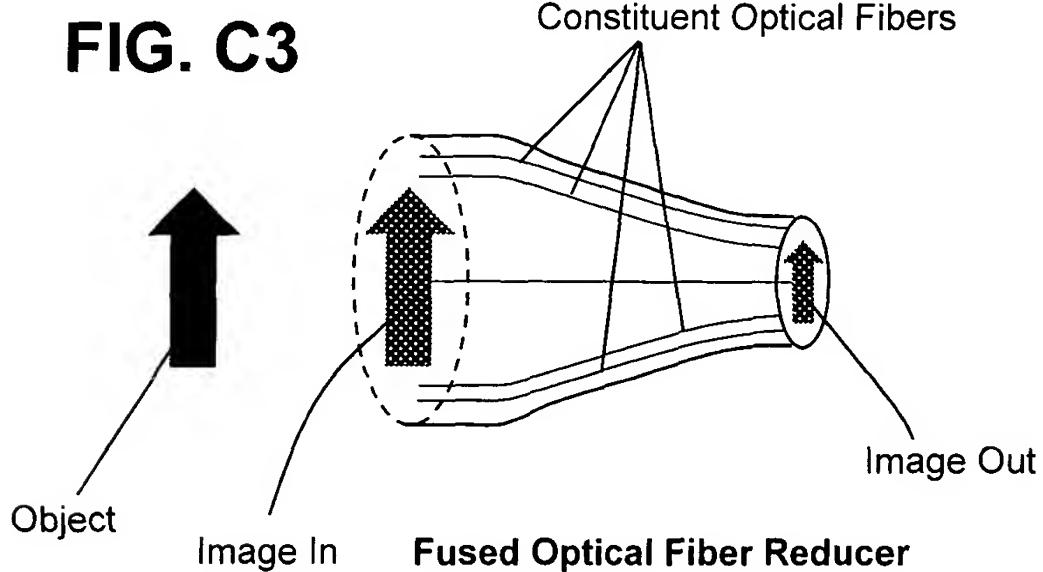
FIG. C1



Fused Optical Fiber Enlarger/Magnifier

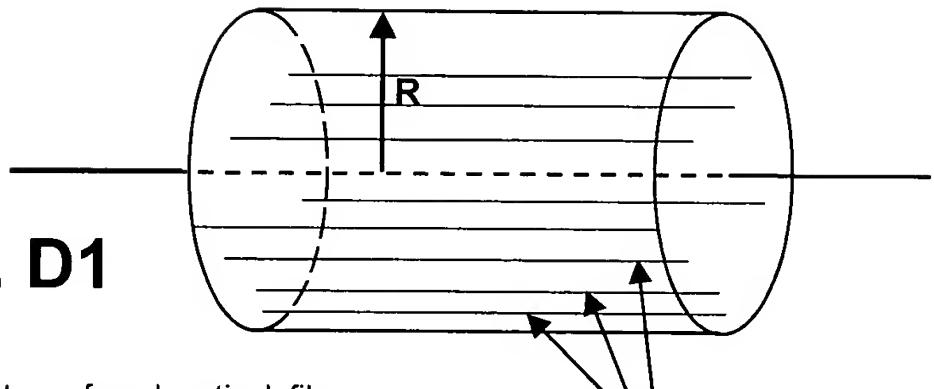
(Background Art)

FIG. C3



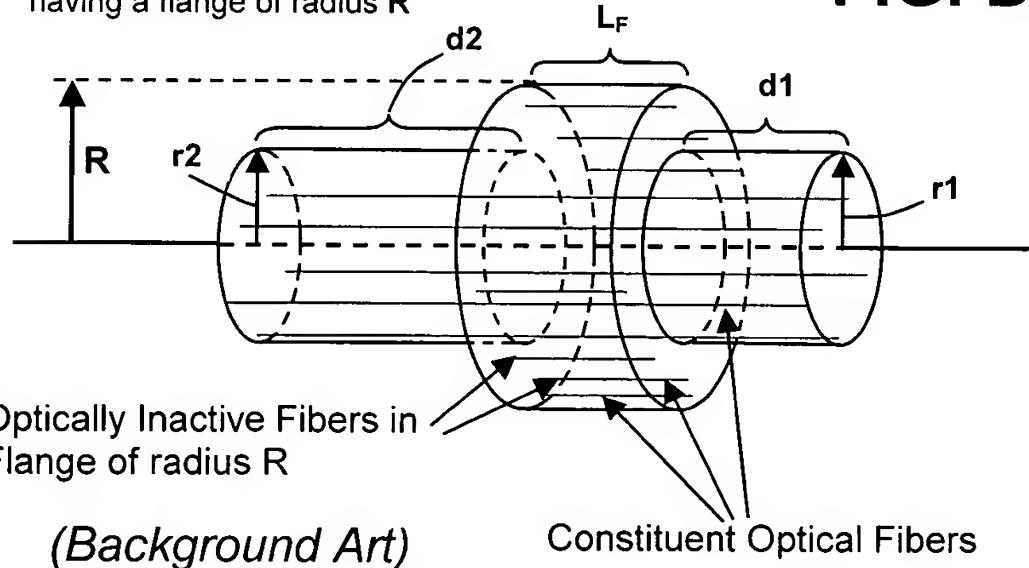
Fused Optical Fiber Reducer

FIG. D1



To create a fused optical fiber component having a flange of radius R , a typical method of the prior art calls for the preliminary fabrication of a fused billet of radius R

FIG. D2



Optically Inactive Fibers in
Flange of radius R

(Background Art)

Constituent Optical Fibers

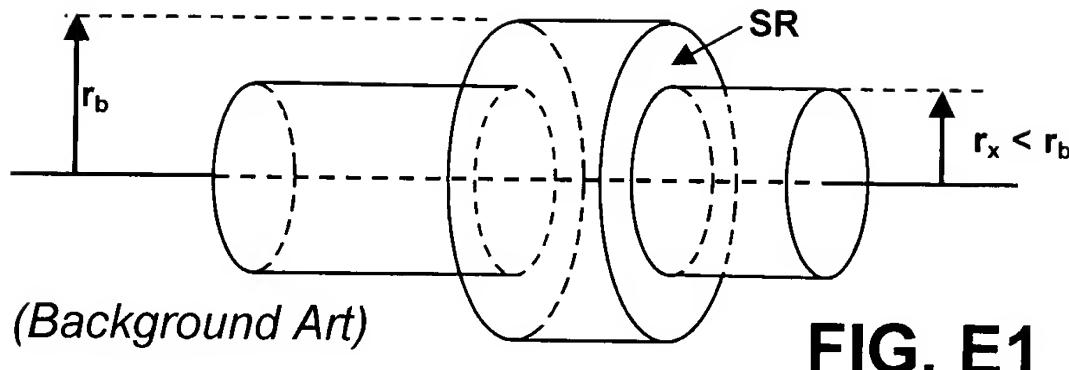


FIG. E1

To create a fused optical fiber component having a flange of radius R , a previously-implemented alternative method calls for the preliminary fabrication of a fused billet of radius r_b , where $r_b < R$. A portion of the billet is then ground to define a shoulder region SR joining a region of radius r_b with a region having a radius $r_x < r_b$.

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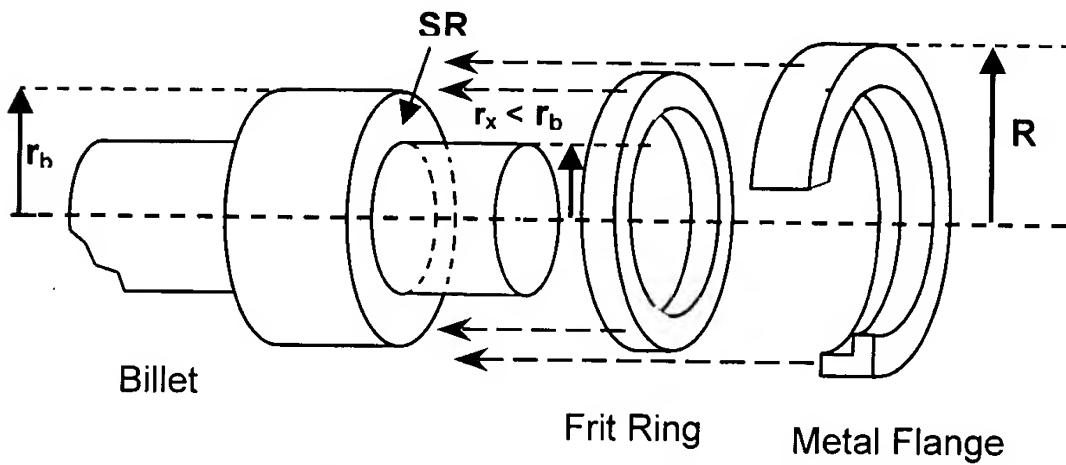
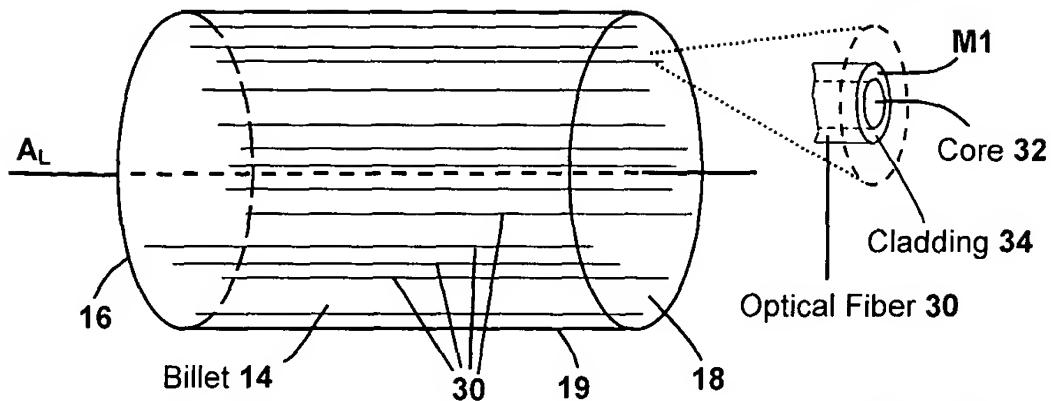


FIG. E2 (Background Art)

A frit ring is then placed in resting engagement with and over the shoulder region SR. A metal ring or sleeve is urged into contacting engagement with the frit ring. The assembly is then heated until the frit ring softens and fuses with the billet and the metal ring/sleeve.

Fused Optical Fiber Image Conduit

FIG. 1



Shoulder 40

FIG. 2

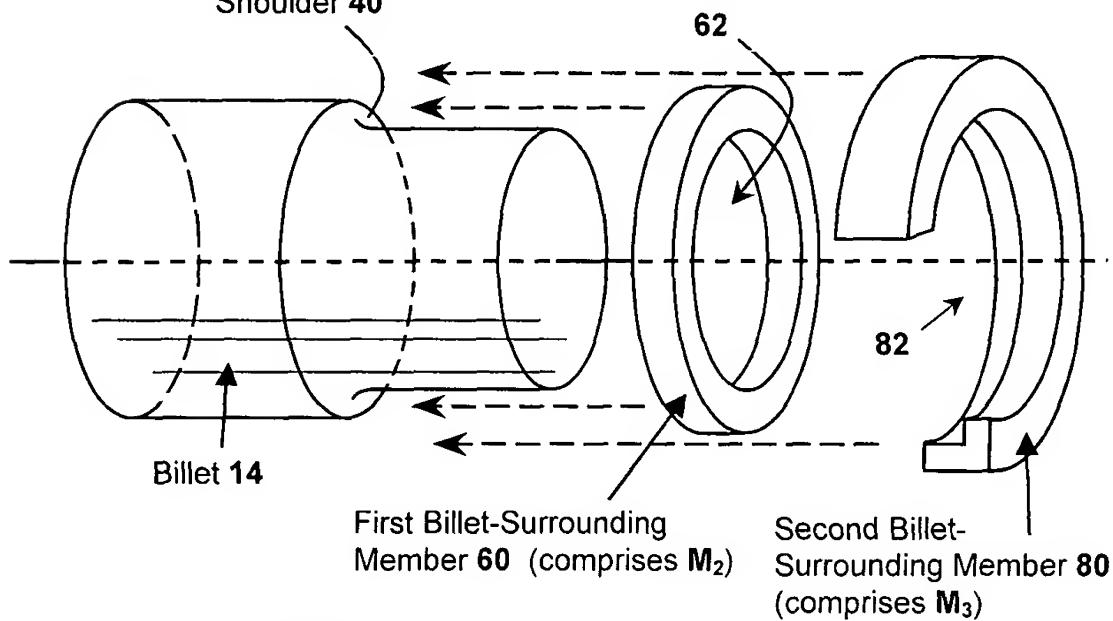
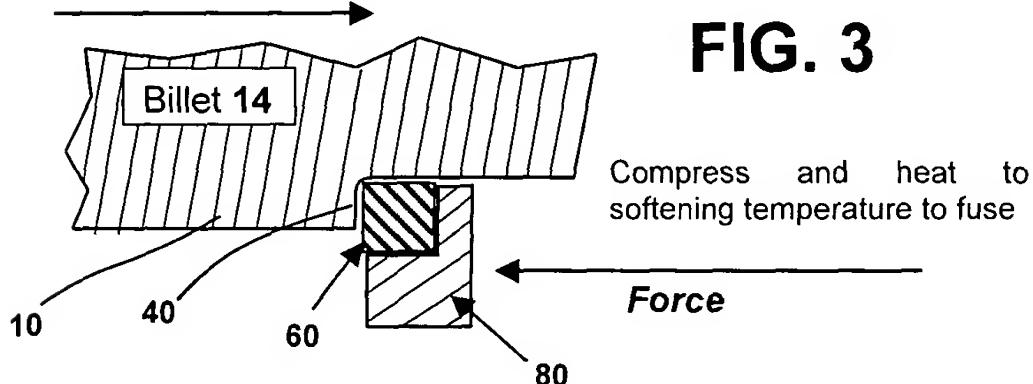


FIG. 3



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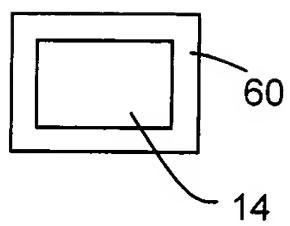


FIG. 4A

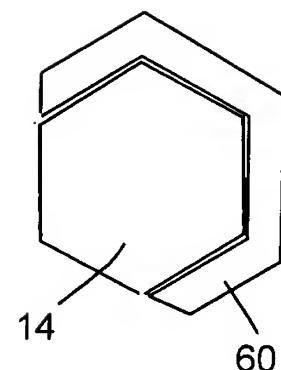


FIG. 4B

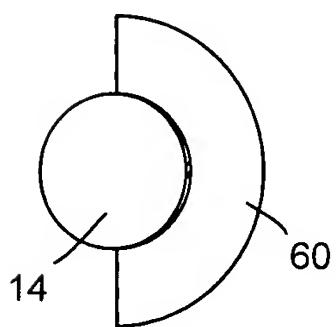


FIG. 4C

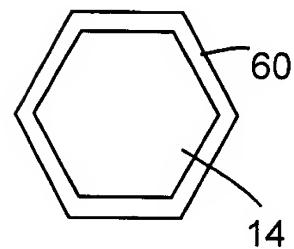


FIG. 4D

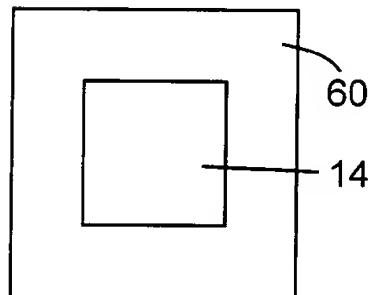


FIG. 4E

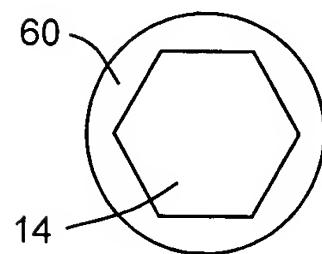
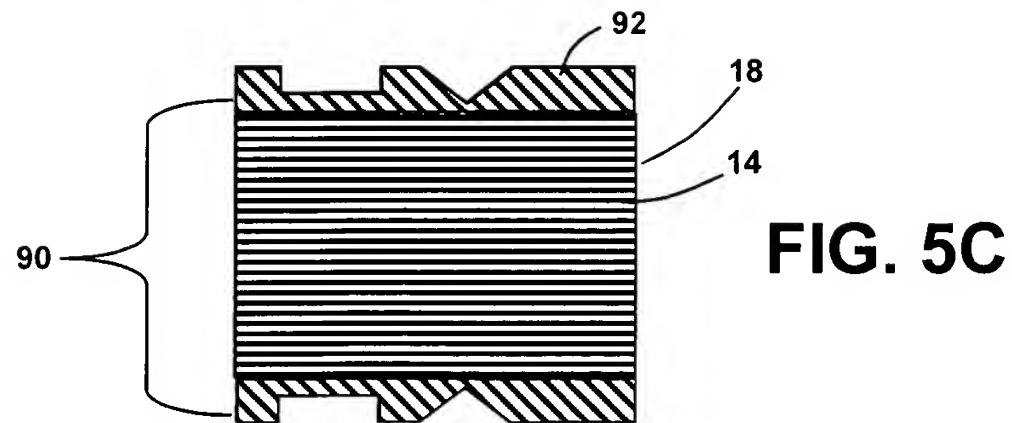
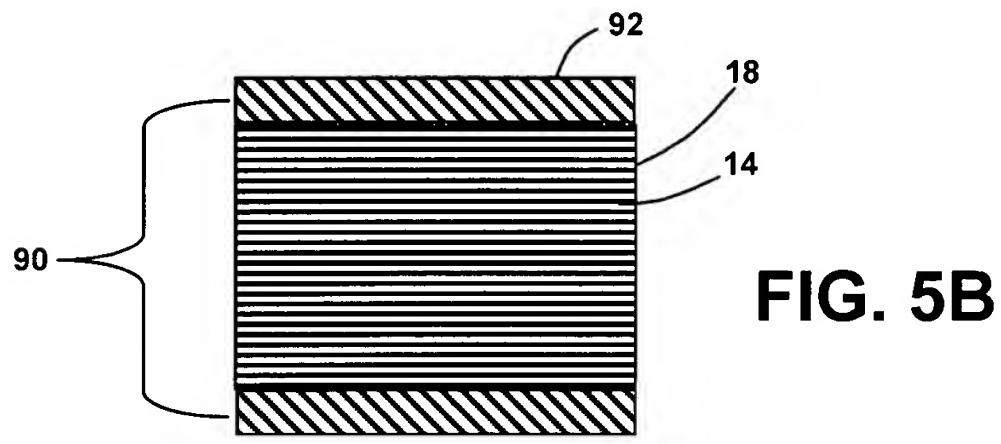
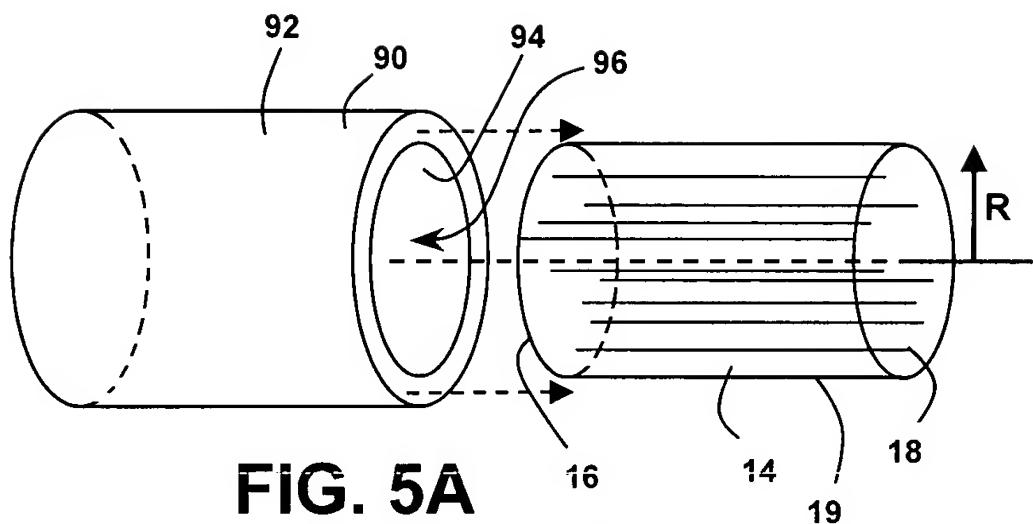


FIG. 4F



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